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USDRIP / Riverway Stakeholder Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 19, 2009

1. Attendees:

Robin Rierdan, Frank Hilliker, Harold Hilliker (via phone), Steve Halfaker, Carl Stiehl, Matt Schneider, Ed Duling, Rick Smith, Maryanne Vancio, George Tockstein, Mark Baker, Pete Liebig, Thomas Medvitz, Bruce Robertson, Devon Muto, Hugo Mora, Mike Nelson and Diana Perez.

2. Lakeside River Park Trail Grants and USDRIP funding discussion

- Robin from the Lakeside River Park Conservancy made a formal request to the USDRIP Redevelopment Agency for two loans for a total of \$890,000 in funds needed to cover grants for the River Park. As Robin explained at the last meeting, the state has put into suspense the larger grant because of the state budget issues and major bond troubles. Mark from the Lakeside Fire District had comments about the interest situation and how the fire district should have interest covered for their project as well if the Redevelopment Agency will be covering the interest for the River Park. Bruce mentioned he had a good experience recently around the redevelopment area meeting people from La Jolla who had come for breakfast and would like to see the trail get done as a draw to get more people to the area. Frank and Rick both had questions and reservations about the budget for the \$800,000 project. There was additional discussion amongst the stakeholders. Rick said we should focus on the proposal at hand. He said he's ok with the 90,000, but has reservations about additional bonds to cover the rest of the funds. He said issuing bonds in the future is an uncomfortable situation. Steve mentioned he is unsure if we'll have enough money at the end. Mike mentioned that maybe we should wait until the state gets back into the bond market. Mike said he has got to do something if USDRIP does not because he has to put the grant somewhere as the grant really is to the San Diego River Conservancy first. Ed Duling said the longer we put the trail off the worse it will be for us with regard to costs, he said to work with staff and get it done. Steve spoke about the interest when we bond and how we can use the interest. Everyone reiterated that tying things in with kiosks and fliers, etc. is the way to go and get this part of the trail done. Mark mentioned that the Fire District does not anticipate that it will spend all of the funds allocated in the Cooperation Agreement for this year. DPLU staff mentioned USDRIP has about 3.7 million in the bank right now and that technically, 3.5 million is allocated to the Fire District by this August. In general the stakeholders gave support of the proposal and asked the Redevelopment Agency to consider the loans. County staff will take everything in consideration and will respond to the stakeholders before the next meeting informing everyone of the decision of the Redevelopment Agency.

3. Initial Draft 5-year Implementation Plan distribution and discussion

- Copies of the initial Draft 5-year Implementation Plan were distributed to the stakeholders. Carl has made some initial changes with regard to the accomplishments listed and the TIF program. However, since this is the stakeholders plan, DPLU did not go too far in making substantial changes yet. Now is the time to include all stakeholders concerns and comments in the draft plan and work towards a new plan for June of this year. A more composed draft will be brought to the March USDRIP meeting and then the 5-year Plan will go out for public review in April.

4. Updates

- Lakeside Fire Station Progress - they are in escrow and moving forward with site acquisition. A Major Pre-Application meeting is scheduled between the Fire District, DPLU, DPW and General Services for March 2.
 - Active Projects
 - Silver Sage Affordable Housing is close to final approval, applicant has to respond to final comments.
 - Witherow Roofing will be approved before the next meeting, finalizing the project with Caltrans
 - Driven Auto Sales is approved and moving to the building permit phase.
 - Riverway Signs – Caltrans has informed us, in discussions, that they can't put signs up as advertising (our "Riverway" signs). Therefore, the only Caltrans type signs we will be able to put up are the signs directing people to the trail, ballfields or fire station, once these locations are completed with appropriate names. Rick mentioned we should continue to be in contact with Caltrans in case we can do the monument signs again. Staff will continue to stay in contact with Caltrans on this issue.
 - Keyser Marston – are now under contract and will begin work on the financials for USDRIP as soon as possible.
 - DPLU is no longer generating the County Fact Sheet, use www.Sandag.org. The Sandag website has extensive information for all jurisdictions.
5. Other – Frank mentioned the Lakeside Farmers' Market is going well and please come out today and every Thursday for fresh food and plants.
6. Please provide comments on the Draft 5-year Implementation Plan to Carl Stiehl at (858) 694-2216 or Carl.Stiehl@sdcounty.ca.gov by Friday March 6 in order to incorporate comments into a more complete Draft for the next meeting.
7. Next Meeting – Thursday, March 19